

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 /072 W
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R 111650Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4687
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 00543

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, GW, IT
SUBJECT: CDU CHAIRMAN'S VIEWS ON ITALY

REF: BONN 09062

1. CDU OFFICIALS HAVE INFORMED US THAT PARTY LEADER KOHL CONTINUES TO BE OPPOSED TO PCI INCLUSION IN AN ITALIAN GOVERNMENT. WERE THE DC TO AGREE TO PCI ENTRY INTO THE GOVERNMENT, KOHL WOULD MAKE GOOD ON HIS EARLIER WARNING (REFTEL) TO DISASSOCIATE THE CDU FROM THE DC. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCES, KOHL HAS OF LATE BEEN REPEATING HIS POSITION IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS, THOUGH WE HAVE NO INDICATION THAT HIS INTERLOCUTORS HAVE INCLUDED DC LEADERS. HOWEVER, BOTH DC PRESIDENT MORO AND PARTY SECRETARY ZACCAGNINI ARE TENTATIVELY PLANNING A VISIT HERE IN FEBRUARY AND KOHL CAN BE EXPECTED TO REITERATE HIS VIEW AT THAT TIME (IF IT IS NOT TOO LATE).

2. AFTER HIS VISIT TO ITALY IN MAY 1977, KOHL WAS
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CONFIDENT THAT DC LEADERS RECOGNIZED THAT PCI INCLUSION WOULD SPLIT THE PARTY AND WAS NOT A VIABLE OPTION. IN VIEW OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS, HOWEVER, KOHL IS NO LONGER SURE THE DC LEADERSHIP IS THINKING ALONG THESE LINES.

3. OUR SOURCES DID NOT BELIEVE PCI ENTRY INTO THE

GOVERNMENT WOULD BOOST CDU ELECTION PROSPECTS IN
THE FRG. THEY THOUGHT THE CONVENTIONAL ARGUMENT THAT
IT WOULD BE A POWERFUL SCARE FACTOR WHICH WOULD DRIVE
THE GERMAN ELECTORATE TO THE RIGHT, WAS NOT APPLICABLE
IN THE FORTHCOMING LAND ELECTIONS. WHILE SUCH A
DEVELOPMENT COULD HAVE A BEARING ON NATIONAL ELECTIONS,
THESE WERE SO FAR OFF (1980) THAT PCI ENTRY INTO THE
GOVERNMENT WAS UNLIKELY TO BE A FACTOR.
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